



The Agrarian



Andrew County Soil and Water Conservation District

Winter/Spring 2010

Cost-Share Allocation for FY 2011

At the January 13, 2010 Soil and Water District Commission meeting, the commission approved the fiscal year 2011 cost-share allocation process. The allocation process utilized information submitted by districts in their Needs Assessment as well as past cost-share usage. These allocations are also contingent on the FY11 budget appropriation process being completed and having sufficient revenues to fund the programs.

Due to significant revenue declines, the proposed FY11 cost-

share budget appropriation as presented by the Governor in the State of the State address is planned at \$24 million com-



pared to the FY 10 approved appropriation of \$26 million.

Andrew County's allocation for FY 11 is \$334,687.90. It is divided as follows:

- *Grazing Management*
\$19,788
- *Irrigation Management*
\$3,200
- *Sensitive Area* \$18,360
- *Sheet/Rill & Gully*
\$289,059.52
- *Woodland Erosion* \$4,280

The Nutrient and Pest Management allocations have not yet been released.

The Soil and Water Conservation District is funded by a 1/10 the one percent sales tax.

Ronnie Landess

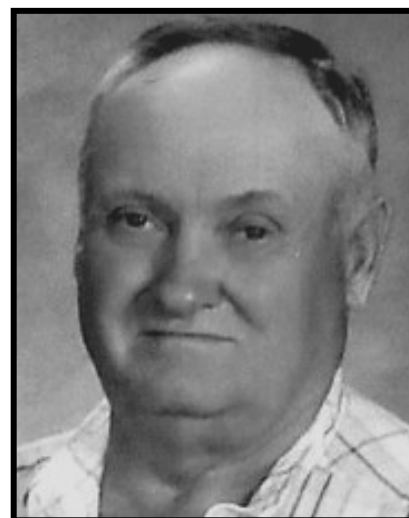
Fondly Remembering a Former Board Member and Landowner

Ronnie Landess touched so many lives. Any one who knew Ronnie would say the same thing, *"He was a good man, and an innovative farmer. I was fortunate to have known him."*

Whenever an innovative agriculture program was announced, the staff at the NRCS, FSA or SWCD could always count on Ronnie being one of the first landowners wanting to learn more.

Ronnie was not only interested in the stewardship of his own land, it was important to him to give of his time in the bigger picture of preserving our natural resources. One of many ways he served was being on the Andrew County SWCD Board of Supervisors for sixteen years. In that time, his concern for the landowners, employees and the land were apparent in all his decision making.

Sadly, Ronnie passed away in December, he will be greatly missed, but always remembered. Our deepest sympathy to his family in their loss.



Ronnie Landess
November 16, 1938 -
December 18, 2009

Board of Supervisors Election

The Andrew County SWCD will hold an election for one Supervisor each in Area One and Area Three on April 6, 2010, from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

The nominating committees for the election have submitted the following qualified candidates:

Area One: Danny Lightle and

Area Three: Tom Thornton and Dallas Tritten.

All Andrew County farm landowners who have been assigned a USDA farm number may vote in this election.

If the farm is owned by a husband and wife or a partnership these entities may be represented by two votes cast. If the

farm is owned by a firm or corporation only one vote may be cast.

The Board of Supervisors election is the same day as the State of Missouri election day. So vote at your local precinct and then make your vote count at the SWCD election.

Open House at USDA Service Center Scheduled for April 6

The Andrew County agriculture agencies would like to invite every Andrew County landowner/operator to a special day at our office at the USDA Center in Savannah, Missouri.

On **APRIL 6, 2010**, the SWCD District, NRCS, FSA, and MDC will be "Celebrating Agriculture" with an open house. The events start at 11:30 AM and conclude at 1:30 PM. It will be an enjoyable time with several planned events but most importantly, a time for landowners/operators and the agricultural agencies to get together and for fun, food and fellowship. Activities planned:

- Presentation of the **Master Conservationist Award and Young Farmer Award.**
- Vote for Board of Supervisors
- Updates on agricultural programs
- Rodney Saunders manning the grill.

FREE LUNCH!!!!

We cannot guarantee the weather, hopefully it will be warm, but we can guarantee a enjoyable a time.

See you on April
6th!!!



NRCS Weather Related Variance for 2010 Compliance Reviews

A weather related variance has been granted for producers who have ruts in their fields from harvest due to the extremely wet fall. This variance only allows for tillage of the areas of fields impacted by ruts. Cooperators who need to exercise this variance should contact the local NRCS office to inform them of the specific fields that tillage will be needed. This is most critical for producers that have selected no-till as the primary means of reducing soil loss to acceptable levels for conservation compliance.

"One touch of nature makes the whole world kin."
William Shakespeare

NRCS Financial Assistance Supports Organic Growers and High Tunnels

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NRCS has \$1.2 million to help Missouri farmers produce organic products, and another \$150,000 for a pilot project to introduce all growers to high tunnel structures that extend the growing season for crops.

Landowners may apply until March 19 for cost-share funding for both initiatives through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). EQIP may pay for up to 75 percent of the cost associated with installing eligible practices, including high tunnels. For those qualifying as beginning farmers, limited-resource farmers, or socially disadvantaged farmers. EQIP funds are available for up to 90 percent

of the installation costs. Payments for organic operations may not exceed \$20,000 per year or \$80,000 during any six-year period.

High tunnels, also known as hoop houses, increase the availability of locally grown produce and extend the growing season.

High tunnels are made of ribs of plastic or metal pipe covered with a layer of plastic sheeting. NRCS will provide financial assistance to fund one high tunnel per farm where there is cultivated cropland covering up to five percent of an acre (2,178 square feet). Producers may build larger tunnels and pay

100 percent of the extra costs themselves. To receive assistance, eligible producers must use commercially manufactured high tunnel kits and no electrical, heating or mechanical ventilation system can be added.

EQIP funds are also available to help fund supporting practices associated with the use of high tunnels. This includes but not limited to: diversions, critical area plantings, nutrient and pest management and underground outlets.

This program is part of USDA's "Know your Farmer, Know Your Food" initiative. To apply or learn more contact your local NRCS office.



What is the difference between environmental concerns and environmental emergencies?

An environmental concern is a situation that you believe threatens the environment, such as a trash dump or discarded waste tires in a stream.

An environmental emergency poses an immediate threat to the public health or the well-being of the environment.

Examples of environmental emergencies include:

- Oil and chemical spills,
- Radiological and biological discharges,
- Accidents causing releases of pollutants,
- Fish kills.

If you are involved in or witness an environmental emergency, please call the Missouri Department of Natural Resources at 573-634-2436.

At Your Services:

Find answers to all your questions from abandoned mines to recycling used oil to yard waste. Go on-line to www.dnr.mo.gov/pub/pub99.pdf. Here you will find a complete phone directory of information and services through the State of Missouri.

SWCD Mission Statement

The mission of the Soil and Water Conservation Program is to administer the policies and general programs developed by the Soil and Water Districts Commission for the saving of Missouri soil and water through the soil and water conservation districts in their work with landowners

What to do with an Expiring CRP Contract - By Jeff Powelson MDC

Tic... Toc... Tic... Toc

Many landowners, hunters, and outdoor enthusiasts do not realize the looming deadline. Over 21 million acres of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts will expire over the next five years.

Over the past 20 years, CRP has improved soil, water and air quality, wildlife habitat and environmentally sensitive areas like wetlands and bottom-land forests.

In the next five years almost half of the nation's CRP will expire, primarily in marginally productive land. The expiring acres are:

- 2009 – 3,743,685 acres;
- 2010 – 4,761,139 acres;
- 2011 – 4,421,438 acres;
- 2012 – 6,251,814 acres;
- 2013 – 3,335,608 acres.

In Missouri, of the 1.4 million enrolled, one million will expire by October 2013. Here are a few options for CRP participants with contracts set to expire:

Option One: Re-enroll

The next time there is a general CRP signup consider re-enrolling. Over the last five years FSA has adjusted CRP soil rental rates. There is a good chance the rental rate has improved since the last sign-up.

Consider converting your CRP field to a quail-friendly mix of wildflowers. In the past, the seeding rates were 8-12

were 8-12 pounds per acre.

Research now shows lower seed rates (around 3-5 pounds of grass with 2-3 pounds of native wildflowers per acre) create good habitat and reduce soil erosion.

Instead of re-enrolling the current grass consider replanting the field to a quail-friendly mix of little bluestem, wildflowers and legumes.

Consult with your local wildlife biologist or private land conservationist for recommended seeding mixes and conversion techniques. Converting to a quail-friendly mix may also improve your overall CRP score.

Option Two: Take Advantage of Continuous CRP

Landowners converting their expiring CRP fields into row crops or pasture should consider leaving field borders along the field edges and wide buffers next to streams and ponds. Landowners can enroll these sensitive areas into popular Continuous CRP practices such as CP21 Filter Strip, CP22 Riparian Forest Buffer and CP33 Habitat Buffer for Upland Birds. Landowners will still receive an annual soil rental payment and incentives for enrolling the margins of their fields into the Continuous CRP. In some cases the payment is higher because of sign-up incentives and/or a landowner could receive up to

90% cost share for establishing the proper vegetation.

A recent study from the Food and Agriculture Policy Research Institute (FAPRI) from the University of Missouri showed that farmers come out ahead when they enroll their crop field edges into Continuous CRP practices such as CP33.

Option Three: Production with Wildlife in Mind

Some expired CRP fields may remain in grass for hay or pasture. Landowners can still take advantage of Continuous CRP practices if they plan on haying or grazing the field; however livestock will need to be excluded from the CRP buffer.

Landowners should also consider other conservation programs such as the Environmental Quality Incentive Program and the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program to help develop better grazing systems, wildlife habitat and protect sensitive habitats. These programs provide cost-share for installing a variety of practices. CRP fields might also qualify for the Grassland Reserve Program or Conservation Stewardship Program. Contact your local USDA Service Center for more information on these programs.

The clock is ticking. What will you do with your expiring CRP contract? **Tic... Toc...**

Tic... Toc...

Energize Missouri Agriculture

Cost-Share Grants for Energy Saving Projects

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources Energy Center and Soil and Water Conservation Program are sponsoring the Energize Missouri Agriculture Cost-Share Program. This program is offering up to \$3 million in cost-share grants to agricultural operations statewide for agricultural energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy equipment. Funding is provided by the US Department of Energy through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The grants will fund up to 75

percent of the cost of an energy saving project with a cap of \$5,000 per applicant. Some of the eligible projects include: solar powered water systems, such as pumps, panels, pipe, tanks or solar powered fences; global positioning system (GPS) guidance system for tractors, combines and sprayers; and irrigation equipment improvements.

Landowners are encouraged to apply for the grants on the web at <http://dnr.mo.gov/transform/>

energizemissouriagriculture.htm.

Paper applications are available at the Andrew County Soil and Water Conservation District office. Information is also available at the University of Missouri Extension office. Applications will be received by the Energy Center until April 20, 2010. All forms will be reviewed by a Technical Review Committee and landowners will be notified after April 20, 2010, if their projects are selected for funding.

Andrew County Office Staff

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EQIP Reminder

With a new growing season just a month away, this is a good time to remind producers with EQIP contracts to make plans to implement the practices scheduled.

There are a few contract holders that have not brought in documentation from the 2009 growing season. Please take the time to bring in this documentation so that payments can be made. Contracts that become delinquent may be cancelled or terminated and may be subject to financial penalty.

If you need assistance from NRCS staff with applying EQIP practices or have questions, do not hesitate to call the NRCS office at 816-324-3196.

Conserving Resources for Future Generations

With funding from the parks, soils and water sales tax, the Department of Natural Resources' Soil and Water Conservation Program has provided \$485 million in incentives to agricultural landowners to voluntarily install erosion-control and water quality practices. It is estimated that more than 169 million tons of soil have been saved since the start of the sales tax in 1984.

As a result, Missouri's erosion rate has dropped more than any other state since 1982 when its erosion rate was the second highest in the nations.

Important Cost-Share Funding Rescissions for FY2010!!!!!!!

Effective February 19, 2010 cost-share allocations to all districts will be reduced by \$2 million. Based on significant reductions in revenues, a \$2,269,245 total rescission from the Soil and Water Conservation Program's FY10 budget is being implemented.

The lingering effects of the economic downturn are generating serious concerns regarding administration of the state's FY11 and FY12 budgets. As a result of these issues, the Soil and Water Conservation Program has been instructed to enact an immediate budget rescission for the remainder of this fiscal year (FY10). After careful review of this mandate, the following actions are required to implement the budget reduction.

- The appropriation for regular cost-share in

FY10 of \$26 million has been reduced and capped at \$24 million. *If a landowner has an **approved** contract, payment will be made when the practice has been completed. Any **new** practices submitted for approval will be contingent upon available funding.*

- The remaining \$269,245 rescission will be administered within the Department program office.
- An immediate freeze of personnel to fill vacated position will be enacted.

If you have any questions regarding the change in funding please call our office at 816-324-3196, ext. 3.

Funding for cost-share comes from the 1/10 of one percent sales tax.

Andrew County Cost-Share for Fiscal Year 2010 - March 1, 2010

Resource Concern	Allocated	Obligated	Obligated %	Claimed	Claimed %
Grazing Management	\$16,500.00	\$7,614.50	46%	\$3,494.50	21%
Groundwater Management	\$5,500.00	\$800.00	15%	\$800.00	15%
Irrigation Management	\$1,760.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$0.00	0.00%
Sensitive Areas	\$19,800.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$0.00	0.00%
Sheet and Rill/ Gully	\$344,804.71	\$310,164.76	90%	\$112,249.49	33%
Streambank Erosion	\$3,300.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$0.00	0.00%
Woodland Erosion	\$3,025.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$0.00	0.00%
Total	\$394,687.71	\$318,579.26	81%	\$126,973.27	32%



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Conservation Connection

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The Andrew County Soil and Water Conservation District held its annual Conservation Connection outdoor classroom on September 16th at the Ford Farm for Youth. The outdoor classroom is an interactive program for all fourth grade students in Andrew County. The goal of the program is to educate the young people on the importance of conserving our natural resources. The students rotated between five learning stations: Aquatics, Forestry, Soils, Wildlife and Poster Contest Information.

Over 260 students listened to speakers from the Missouri Department of Conservation, and the Natural Resources Conservation Services. The participating schools were: Amazonia, Avenue City, Helena, John Glenn, King City, Minnie Cline, and North Andrew. Volunteers from the North Andrew and Savannah Future Farmers of America chapters assisted the classes throughout the day.

Andrew County Commissioners' Larry Atkins, Darryl Howard, and Greg Wall spoke to the children during their picnic lunch. The Commissioners explained that Zachary Ford left his farm to be used by the youth of Andrew County. Organized youth groups such as Scouts, church youth groups, and other educational programs such as Conservation Connection are able to utilize the Ford Farm.

The Ford Farm allows youth to experience nature on the diverse farm that has prairie grasses, trees, wildlife and parks maintained as an outdoor classroom. *Funding for this program is made possible by the Zachery Ford Trust.*



Planting Season is Just Around the Corner!!!
Be careful in the fields and on the public roads.



Photo from the Missouri Natural Resources Conservation Service Archives

Expiring CRP Land Qualifies for Cost-Share Funding

Under the Conservation Reserve Program land is considered cropland rather than grass and will qualify for state cost-share immediately after the contract expires, ***if there is an erosion problem.***

For more guidance on how to determine if your acreage qualifies, please contact the NRCS office at 816-324-3196, ext 3.

Remember call or Click Before You Dig!
1-800-DIG-RITE or 811
molcall.com

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Conservation District**
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